London Mission

Republic of Trinidad and Tobago

Volume 62 : Jan - Mar 2013

CONTENTS

LONDON **MISSION** | JAN - MAR 2013
ISSUE 62

ON THE FRONT COVER:
His Excellency Anthony Thomas Aquinas Carmona, SC, President of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago

NEWS

1/ Inaugural Address by the 5th President of T&T at the Hasely Crawford Stadium

5/ Introducing H. E. Anthony Carmona

7/ Prime Minister's Persad-Bissessar letter to President Richards as he demits Office

9/ Heads of Mission Conference

10/ Hackney Museum Presents: Fifty Years Come and Gone

10/ Commonwealth Day Observance Service at Westminster Abbey

EYEONTRADE

12/ H.E. Nicholas chairs Regional Trade talks

12/ Tobago Wins Again

13/ T&T High Commission expands its Trade and Business Division

14/ T&T International Fashion Showcase 2013 Waves: Re-think

TOURISM

16/ Tobago Tickets Won Every Fifteen Minutes

17/ Trinidad & Tobago at ITB Berlin 2013

18/ Trinidad & Tobago Carnival 2013 Results

22/ Curwen Primary School International Week Project

23/ CAL Brochure Launch and Rum Tasting

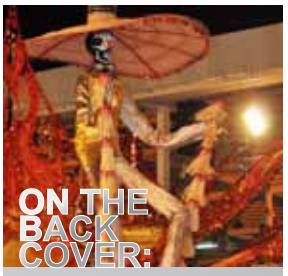
FEATURE

24/ H.E Garvin Nicholas speaks on building a healthy nation at Health Conference

26/ H.E Garvin Nicholas visits the Royal Mint

27/ CPG seeks to advance the mutual interests of Scotland and the Caribbean

28-30/ National Meetings



ON THE BACK COVER:
The joint winner of King of Carnival 2013 - 'Moko in Flames' costumed designed by Mr. Ted Eustace. Mr. Eustace tied with Mr. Gerard Weekes' costume 'Ai To Yujo No Yorokobi (The Joy of Love and Friendship)'. ***Photo - NCC***

STAY CONNECTED

Facebook
TTHC London

Twitter
@TnT_London

Get Email Updates
Complete the National's Registration Form online or in person at the T&T High Commission.

A Quarterly Publication of :
The High Commission for the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago, London
42 Belgrave Square, London SW1X 8NT
TEL: 020 7245 9351
FAX: 020 7823 1065
EMAIL: tthc@btconnect.com

PRINTING
Public Affairs, Culture and Tourism Department of The High Commission for the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF
H.E. Garvin Nicholas, High Commissioner

EDITORS
Ms. Roanna Gopaul, Counsellor
Mrs. Reshma Bissoon-Deokie, First Secretary
Ms. Nickesha Smith, Second Secretary
Mrs. Renuka Koninger, Cultural Officer

CONTRIBUTING WRITERS
Mrs. Beverley Awonaya
Ms Soyini Grey

PROOFING TEAM
Mrs. Renuka Koninger, Cultural Officer
Mrs. Beverley Awonaya,

CONTRIBUTING PHOTOGRAPHERS
Ms. Soyini Grey
Mr. Lawson C. Lovell

LAYOUT AND DESIGN
Mr. Lawson C. Lovell
Ms. Soyini Grey

The Fund was Created and established in November 2010 by the Government of Trinidad and Tobago, the Children's Life Fund's aegis is to provide urgent relief for children, assisting those who live in the shadow of disease and illness. The Fund has also received support from the renewed charity medical Schriners Children's Hospital. In addition, all Cabinet Ministers and Members of Parliament contribute 5% of their salary to the Fund.

Account Number: 50927848
Sort Code: 204734

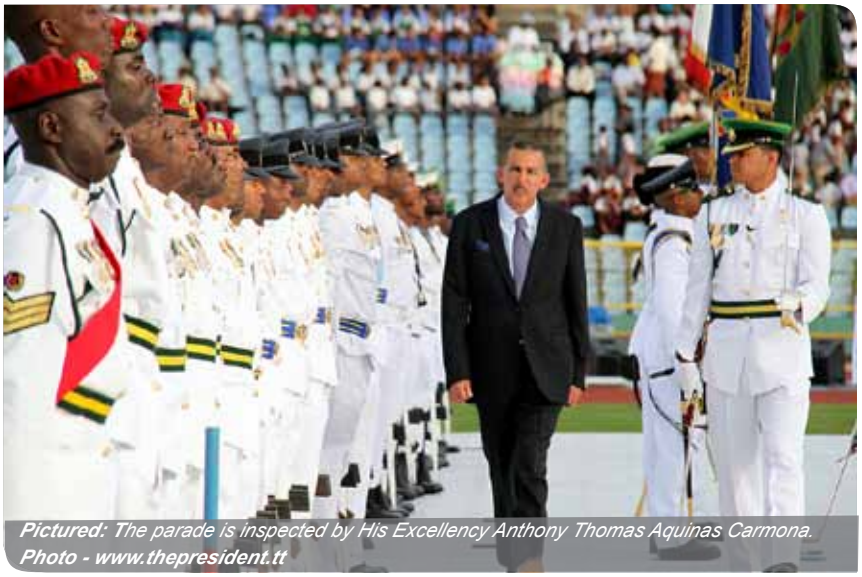
Trinidad and Tobago High Commission (Children's Life Fund)

Barclays Bank, West Halkin Street, London SW1X 8JE

For more information on The Children's Life Fund please visit www.clfa.org.tt

INAUGURAL ADDRESS BY THE 5TH PRESIDENT OF T&T AT THE HASELY CRAWFORD STADIUM

The following is an excerpt from the address by His Excellency Anthony Thomas Aquinas Carmona, SC, President of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago during his inauguration as the President of the Trpublic of Trinidad and Tobago at the Hasely Crawford Stadium, Port of Spain, Trinidad and Tobago on March 18th, 2013:



Pictured:** The parade is inspected by His Excellency Anthony Thomas Aquinas Carmona. **Photo - www.thepresident.tt

I wish to express my gratitude to former President (George Maxwell) Richards for his services to the Republic, for his cooperation during the transition period, and particularly for his generous hosting of this ceremony.

I am humbled by the abundance of goodwill that I have received; but I am mindful that goodwill can be nebulous and can dissipate if expectations are not realised or not realised expeditiously.

I have listened quietly, but with some trepidation, to the well intentioned national discussions on the role and responsibilities of the President of the Republic.

My fellow citizens, it would be otiose, on this occasion, to attempt to engage you in a discussion on constitutional law. I do want to emphasise, however, that I am not an Executive President. Under the Westminster form of governance there are parameters within which I must operate. Powers you think I have...I do not. Powers you think I do not have...I do.

I may not have a magic wand, but the Office of the Presidency is not impotent. Section 81 of the Constitution mandates the Prime Minister to keep the President fully informed of the general conduct of the Government and, at President's request, to submit information with respect to any matter relating thereto.

As a judge, I swore to uphold the Constitution and the law and do right to all manner of people without fear or favour, affection or ill will.

Pictured:** His Excellency Anthony Thomas Aquinas Carmona addressing the nation in his the Inaugural Ceremony, in the Hasely Crawford Stadium. **Photo - www.thepresident.tt

This I have done unflinchingly. As President of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago my remit is wider and greater, for I have sworn "to preserve the Constitution and the Law" and to devote myself to the "service and well-being of the people of Trinidad and Tobago". This I shall do without compromise or reservation, holding fast to the following fundamentals: Integrity, Transparency, Inclusiveness and Reverence to God Almighty.

Children, Distinguished Ladies

and Gentlemen: The preamble of our Constitution includes two critical principles that continue to inform our existence as an independent nation; first, that there is a higher authority that we are all enjoined to acknowledge; and second, that our humanity confers on us all certain rights and freedoms but, at the same time, imposes on us all corresponding responsibilities.

The fact that we may hold these ideas to be inviolate, however, does not deny the need for Constitutional reform, the need to revisit the principles and precedents by which we are currently governed, to unravel the sense of disconnect that the average person has to the issue of governance.

The mandate of my Presidency will be to infuse new life to the watchwords Discipline, Production, Tolerance.

Fulfilling the objective of the watchword Discipline entails an acceptance of personal responsibility for one's actions, a willingness to be held accountable. Let me make it clear that being responsible and accountable does not only apply to "people in high places", to Ministers of Government and other elected officials. Our leaders are all those persons who command positions of influence in our society.

Whatever their sphere of influence, it is the right and duty of our citizenry to demand that, as leaders, they are responsible and accountable in the exercise of their functions.

Yet, one cannot justly demand that those in authority be disciplined, responsible and accountable and not invoke the same standards of conduct in our own daily lives.

Pictured: *His Excellency Anthony Thomas Aquinas Carmona signing official documents at Inaugural Ceremony, in the Hasely Crawford Stadium.* ***Photo - www.thepresident.tt***

Being responsible and accountable is a two-way street. It is a duty that our citizenship imposes on us all, regardless of our social or economic status.

Vaclav Havel, the ninth and last President of Czechoslovakia and the first President of the Czech Republic, in his 1990 New Year's address to the nation, pointed to his countrymen's shared responsibility for their past and future in these words:

"Let us not be mistaken: the best government in the world, the best parliament and the best president, cannot achieve much on their own. And it would be wrong to expect a general remedy from them alone. Freedom and democracy include participation and therefore responsibility from us all."

The second watchword, Production. Production is a call for us to re-examine our work ethic; to demand a fair day's pay but, at the same time, to commit to giving a fair day's work; to search out lawful opportunities to be less dependent on the State; to distinguish between service and servitude; and to ensure that in any and all areas of endeavour, the goods and services that we offer are second to none.

Finally, there is the third watchword, Tolerance. Tolerance is properly defined as "the positive and cordial effort to understand another's beliefs, practices, and habits without necessarily sharing or accepting them." (Joshua Liebman)

As such, it is allied to the practice of empathy, compassion and respect for others, all qualities that are needed if we hope to establish the more humane civil society that our small multi-ethnic, multi-religious, multi-cultural population seems gifted to achieve by virtue of its proven creativity, wide-ranging and varied talents and overarching intellectual energy.

As we celebrate our 50th anniversary as a nation, we are faced with two opposing value systems, each striving to emerge as the dominant culture. The first speaks to a spirit of collaboration and community exemplified in the fellowship of religious institutions; in the unity and camaraderie of the steelband; in the supportive organisation of the sou-sou; in the healing influence of the panchayat; in the socially nurturing role enacted by many businesss and professional bodies; and in the benevolence of our richly varied world of NGOs and organisations of civil society.

To read full speech, please visit - http://bit.ly/WDnBpm

INTRODUCING HIS EXCELLENCY ANTHONY THOMAS AQUINAS CARMONA, SC,

PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

On February 15, 2013, the Electoral College of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago elected Mr. Justice Anthony Thomas Aquinas Carmona S.C., as the Fifth President of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago. In 2002, he was conferred the status of Senior Counsel. In 2004, he was appointed a Judge of the Supreme Court of Trinidad and Tobago and subsequently, a Judge of the International Criminal Court.

Anthony Carmona is the eldest of six (6) children to parents Dennis Stephen and Barbara Carmona. He was born on March 7, 1953, in Fyzabad, Trinidad and Tobago. He attended the Santa Flora Government Primary School and went on to Presentation College, San Fernando, where he received his secondary school education.

In 1977, Mr. Carmona obtained a Bachelor of Arts (Hons) Degree, in English and Political Science, at Mona Jamaica and in 1981, a Bachelor of Laws (Hons), at Cave Hill, Barbados, both from the University of the West Indies (UWI). In 1983, Mr. Carmona was called to the Bar of Trinidad and Tobago.

In 1989, he became a Senior State Attorney. From 1994 to 1999, he was first Assistant, then Deputy Director of Public Prosecutions and acted as Director of Public Prosecutions. From 2001 to 2004, he was an Appeals Counsel at the Office of the Prosecutor, at the International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia, and in The Hague and the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda, in Arusha. In this capacity, he successfully prosecuted appeals of persons convicted of crimes within the jurisdiction of the Tribunals, namely, generals, camp commanders, soldiers and politicians.

On December 12, 2011, he was elected a Judge of the International Criminal Court. He won the Office, in the first ballot, in the Assembly of States Parties election, gaining the required 2/3 majority. He was sworn in as a Judge of the International Criminal Court (ICC), on March 9, 2012.

In addition to his distinguished legal profession, President Carmona has a wealth of experience as an educator, both in Trinidad and Tobago and in Jamaica, where he was a teacher at the primary and secondary school levels, between 1972 and 1975, first at St. Hugh's High School and Merle Grove High School, Kingston, Jamaica; then in Trinidad and Tobago, at Palo Seco Government Secondary and Fyzabad Anglican Secondary Schools. At the tertiary level, he was a Lecturer, (1983–1985), at San Fernando Technical Institute, in Business Law and a National Examiner in Business Law; a Lecturer in the Department of Language and Linguistics and a Senior Tutor in the Department of Government, University of the West Indies, St. Augustine, Trinidad and Tobago, for approximately four (4) years.

Above: *His Excellency Anthony Thomas Aquinas Carmona, SC, President of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago.*

On March 18, 2013, Mr. Justice Anthony Thomas Aquinas Carmona, S.C., took the oath as the Fifth President of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago, at an Inaugural Ceremony, at the Hasely Crawford Stadium, Port-of-Spain, Trinidad.

His Excellency is married to First Lady Reema Carmona and they have a son, Christian and a daughter, Anura.

Pictured: *His Excellency Anthony Thomas Aquinas Carmona, First Lady Reema Carmona with daughter, Anura and son, Christian arriving at the Inaugural Ceremony, in the Hasely Crawford Stadium.* ***Photo - www.thepresident.tt***

PAST PRESIDENTS OF THE REPUBLIC OF TRINIDAD & TOBAGO

SIR ELLIS EMMANUEL INNOCENT CLARKE
SEPTEMBER 24, 1976 – MARCH 19, 1987

The second and last Governor-General and the first President of Trinidad and Tobago, Ellis Clarke (deceased) succeeded Sir Solomon Hochoy as Governor General in 1972. He was unanimously elected as President when Trinidad and Tobago became a Republic in 1976.

NOOR MOHAMED HASSANALI
MARCH 20, 1987 – MARCH 17, 1997

The second President of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago, Noor Hassanali (deceased) served two terms, between 1987 and 1997. He was a retired High Court Judge, the first Indo-Trinidadian to hold the office of President and the first Muslim Head of State in the Caribbean and the Americas.

ARTHUR NAPOLEON RAYMOND ROBINSON
MARCH 18, 1997 – MARCH 16, 2003

Arthur N.R. Robinson succeeded Noor Hassanali as President of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago and served in office from 1997-2003. He was previously Prime Minister from 1986-1991, during which time he was a member of the National Alliance for Reconstruction. Mr. Robinson was the first active politician to be elected to the Presidency and was the first presidential candidate who was elected unopposed.

GEORGE MAXWELL RICHARDS, TC, CMT, PHD
MARCH 17, 2003 – MARCH 17, 2013

Professor Richards, the country's fourth President served two terms between 2003 and 2013. A chemical engineer by training, Richards was Principal of the St. Augustine campus of the University of the West Indies in Trinidad in 1996. He is the first Head of State of Amerindian ancestry in the Anglophone Caribbean.

12 FAST FACTS ABOUT THE PRESIDENT AND THE PRESIDENCY

- The Presidential colours are gold and royal blue.
- The President is Head of State while the Prime Minister is Head of Government in the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago.
- The President is the only person authorised to declare a state of public emergency.
- The length of a President's term in office is five years.

- The President as "His Excellency" but, when addressing him directly, you should say "Your Excellency".
- As Head of State, His Excellency is 'Chief Scout' of the Scout Association of Trinidad and Tobago.
- The building which houses the Office of the President was first built during Sir Solomon Hochoy's tenure as Governor General of Trinidad and Tobago.
- Arthur N.R. Robinson, the country's third President is the only person to have served as both Prime Minister and President of Trinidad and Tobago. He was also Chairman of the Tobago House of Assembly.
- That Republic Day is celebrated with a national holiday on September 24th even though Trinidad and Tobago actually became a republic on August 1st, 1976.
- The President of the Senate acts as President in the event that the President is unable to do so.
- According to the Constitution, the President is Chancellor of the Order of the Trinity.
- According to tradition, the Prime Minister meets with the President weekly in order to fulfill the constitutional obligation (Section 81) to keep the President fully informed concerning matters of government.

PRIME MINISTER'S PERSAD-BISSESSAR LETTER TO PRESIDENT RICHARDS AS HE DEMITS OFFICE

The Hon. Prime Minister Persad-Bissessar

March 18, 2013:

Your Excellency

Members of my Cabinet join me in extending to you and to Her Excellency, Dr. Richards, our very best wishes, as you demit the Office of the President of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago on Sunday, March 17, 2013.

Your Excellency can take great satisfaction from the fact that you have served our beloved Nation for a decade with honour and distinction. You will be leaving an indelible mark with dignity, wisdom and perspicacity you always displayed during your two terms of office. Your insightful words and guidance, particularly to the youth of our country, will remain relevant and memorable in the years ahead as we continue to evolve and grow in our national development.

I am particularly mindful of the counsel you always provided to me as Prime Minister and your willingness at all times to share in frank and productive consultations. I also know that Your Excellencies endeared yourselves to all sectors of our society, helping to foster goodwill and patriotism among all our citizens.

You will both be dearly missed by all citizens as well as the many organisations you both served as patrons, or whose work you both supported.

I extend to both of you the sincerest appreciation of a grateful Nation for your decade of dedicated and committed service of Trinidad and Tobago, as well as my personal gratitude for the support you gave to me and my Government and wish you every success in your future endeavours.

With kindest regards and personal assurances.

The Honourable Kamla Persad-Bissessar, S.C., M.P.

The Hon. George Maxwell Richards, TC, CMT, Ph.d and wife Dr. Jean Ramjohn- Richards arriving at the Inaugural Ceremony, in the Hasely Crawford Stadium

PM'S STATEMENT ON THE OCCASION OF CARNIVAL 2013

My dear Citizens of Trinidad and Tobago, the beautiful festival of Arts, Masquerade, Calypso, Music and Creativity, Carnival, is here again and in the run-up to Carnival Monday 11th and Tuesday 12th February 2013, there will be much activity with returning nationals arriving with foreign visitors and festivities featuring major competitions and finals comprising the celebration.

All around the country, citizens will celebrate life and the opportunity it brings for creative and cultural expression. It is an incredible phenomenon, which allows for a real appreciation of the true talent, diversity, beauty and good will that characterise the collective psyche of the citizens of this vibrant Republic.

On behalf of the Government and myself, I extend a warm welcome to all visitors and invite you to experience one of the greatest spectacles of our cultural calendar. It is a time of revelry, merriment and release, which is a healthy and welcome respite in this stressful world.

Pictured: *The Hon. Prime Minister Persad-Bissessar. greeting revellers on Carnival Sunday.*

While I appreciate the indomitable spirit of freedom which engenders Trinidad and Tobago Carnival, I make a heartfelt appeal to all citizens to exercise due caution and to respect each other, ensuring safety and responsibility in all Carnival activities during this short, emotional season.

I especially appeal to all adults and parents to ensure the safety of their young children who are looking to them for positive direction and good examples.

Please be assured that my Government and the protective services are on alert and will take appropriate measures to safeguard citizens and visitors during the Carnival celebrations.

Carnival is not an excuse for lawlessness and reckless behaviours. As Prime Minister, I urge you all to display mature, disciplined and sensible behaviour, tempering your celebrations with a true appreciation of all that is beautiful and positive.

Let us make our country proud and be our best selves in the process. Please accept my sincere best wishes for a safe and enjoyable Carnival 2013.

PRIME MINISTER EXTENDS CONDOLENCES ON THE PASSING OF VENEZUELA'S PRESIDENT HUGO CHAVEZ

Pictured: *The Hon. Prime Minister Persad-Bissessar extends condolences at the Venezuelan Embassy.*

On behalf of the Government and people of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago, it is with great sadness that I extend deepest condolences to the Government and people of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela and to his family on the passing of Comandante Hugo Chávez Frías, President of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela. Our prayers accompany them in their time of grief.

President Chávez will always be remembered for his vision for the future of his beloved country, for his unwavering commitment to reducing poverty among the dispossessed and for his determination to provide a dignified life to the beneficiaries of his populist programmes.

May his soul rest in peace. ▸▸

⏩ I was honoured to attend the historic inaugural summit of the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States (CELAC), which President Chávez hosted in Caracas in December, 2011. I well recall his receptivity to Trinidad and Tobago's proposal that the CELAC troika be expanded to a quartet to include a Caribbean voice.

This year, 2013, we commemorate the 50th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between Trinidad and Tobago and Venezuela. Venezuela is one of our strongest allies and our relationship remains solid.

Again, on behalf of the Government and people of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago, I extend our deepest sympathy to the Government and people of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela on the death of President Hugo Chávez Frías.

HEADS OF MISSION CONFERENCE IN TRINIDAD

Above: *Director of the Institute of International Relations Prof W Andy Wright, left, responds to questions at the opening of the Heads of Mission conference at the Hilton Trinidad on Tuesday 26th February., 2013 Foreign Affairs Minister Winston Dookeran, centre, and His Excellency Garvin Nicholas are also at the head table.* ***Photo courtesy Trinidad Guardian***

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs hosted Heads of Mission Conference (HOMC) at the Hilton Trinidad and Conference Centre from 25th to 28th February, 2013.

The HOMC 2013 aimed to strengthen and advance the formulation and implementation of the Foreign Policy Objectives of Trinidad and Tobago, through the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Trinidad and Tobago Overseas Missions.

This year, the theme for the Conference was: "The New Role, Challenges and prospects of Small States in advancing their Strategic Interests in the International System – Learning Together".

All Heads of Mission, Consuls General, Heads of Departments and Sections of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and representatives from Civil Society are invited to the HOMC.

The HOMC's programme of events was structured around the strategic direction that the Honourable Minister of Foreign Affairs intended to articulate re: The Foreign Policy of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Government of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago, and the reaffirmation and integration of Trinidad and Tobago's Medium Term Policy (2011-2014) and its main pillars as they translate into the Foreign Policy Framework.

Participants of the HOMC were addressed by His Excellency Professor George Maxwell Richards, the then President of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago, the Honourable Kamla Persad-Bissessar, Prime Minister of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago, the Honourable Winston Dookeran- Minister of Foreign Affairs, Professor Andy Knight, Director of the UWI Institute of International Relations and Dr. Jorge Heine - Chair Global Governance, the Balsillie School of International Affairs.

Source: *www.foreign.gov.tt/news/2013/feb/25/heads-mission-conference/*

HACKNEY MUSEUM PRESENTS: FIFTY YEARS COME AND GONE

Pictured: *H.E. Garvin Nicholas speaks with H.E. Aloun Ndombet-Assamba, High Commissioner of Jamaica and her son Dominic Strachan at the Hackney Museum special exhibition charting the Independence journeys of Trinidad and Tobago and Jamaica.*

His Excellency Garvin Nicholas paid a visit to Hackney Museum on January 21st to view the exhibition "Independence: Fifty Years Come and Gone, How Yuh Feel?", a celebration of the 50th Anniversary of Trinidad and Tobago's and Jamaica's Independence from Great Britain. He was accompanied by his Jamaican counterpart, Her Excellency Aloun Ndombet-Assamba.

Thecuratorsfor"Independence: Fifty Years Come and Gone, How Yuh Feel?" used a mix of media to track the history of the two countries in a timeline. Alongside photographs and sculptures, a documentary was screened which had been commissioned for the exhibit. High Commissioner Nicholas was interviewed for the documentry in which he explained that one of the benefits of Trinidad and Tobago's independence was that it empowered its citizens to take an active role in their country's development.

Deputy Speaker of Hackney Council, Councillor Michael Desmond,, was also present and he spoke of the significant contribution that the Caribbean Diaspora made to the borough. Councillor Desmond praised the exhibit for helping "local children feel a connection to their history."

"Independence: Fifty Years Come and Gone, How Yuh Feel?" was launched on the 2nd October 2012 for Black History month and was extended due to public demand. The exhibit ended on Saturday 26th January 2013.

Above: *Deputy Speaker of Hackney Council - Cllr. Michael Desmond addressing the audience at the exhibition.* **Below:** *A small selection of the atwork and images from exhibition.*

COMMONWEALTH DAY OBSERVANCE SERVICE AT WESTMINSTER ABBEY

Commonwealth Day was celebrated throughout the Commonwealth on Monday 11th March 2013, for the purpose of promoting an awareness of global issues, international cooperation and the work of the Commonwealth.

This year's theme, 'Opportunity

Pictured: *HRH The Duke of Edinburgh arrives at Westminster Abbey.*

through Enterprise: Unlocking potential with innovation and excellence' was the focus of attention for the entire Commonwealth week of 11th-17th March, 2013.

The Secretary-General of the Commonwealth, H.E. Kamalesh Sharma, stated that the theme "encourages us all to celebrate the ways in which talent and innovation can be supported and put to the best use possible. Through a mix of world music, dance and personal testimonies, this theme celebrates economic innovation throughout the Commonwealth and a shared commitment towards youth, social and sustainable enterprise'. There are 54 countries in the Commonwealth and they all join together in celebration of the links they share as members of one diverse and dynamic global family - the modern Commonwealth."

Several activities were held in the City of London in commemoration of Commonwealth Week, the most notable being the Commonwealth Day Observance Service at Westminster Abbey on Monday 11th March 2013, which was attended by His Excellency Garvin Nicholas, High Commissioner for the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago.

Pictured: *Mr. Christopher Gray carried the flag for Trinidad and Tobago.*

The Observance Service is a large multi-faith gathering including dignitaries from around the world.

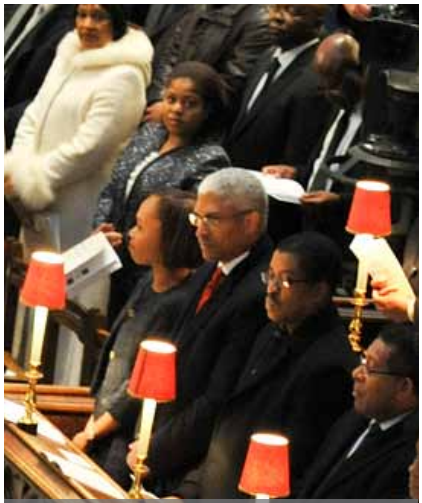
Well over 1000 young people joined HRH The Duke of Edinburgh to celebrate Commonwealth Day in Westminster Abbey for the Commonwealth Day Observance Service. Speakers included Sir Richard Branson and Ricken Patel and there were performances by Beverley Knight and The Noisettes.

A procession of Commonwealth flags, carried in order of membership through the Abbey with musical accompaniment, was a highlight of the event. Mr Christopher Gray, a student from Trinidad and Tobago on a postgraduate scholarship, was chosen by the High Commission to be the flag bearer for Trinidad and Tobago. When asked to comment Mr. Gray said, "It was a great honour to be able to represent my country at this prestigious event."

His Excellency Garvin Nicholas also participated in various other events surrounding Commonwealth Day which included the High Commissioners' Dinner and the Secretary General's Commonwealth Day Reception at Marlborough House in the presence of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II.

Commonwealth Day was also celebrated in Trinidad and Tobago where activities included an exhibition hosted by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in which a number of Government agencies and private companies partnered with the Ministry to support business development and prosperity in Trinidad and Tobago.

The programme to launch the exhibition included speakers, such as Ms. Margaret Parillon, Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, His Excellency Ross William Tysoe, High Commissioner of Australia for Trinidad and Tobago, His Excellency Arthur Snell, British High Commissioner for Trinidad and Tobago and The Honourable Winston Dookeran M.P., Minister of Foreign Affairs of Trinidad and Tobago.



Pictured: *His Excellency Garvin Nicholas and his wife Dr. Alcala at the Commonwealth Day Observance in Westminster Abbey.*

Pictured: *A procession of Commonwealth flags, carried in order of membership through the Abbey*

Photos- Royal Commonwealth Society

H.E. NICHOLAS CHAIRS REGIONAL TRADE TALKS

Pictured: *His Excellency Garvin Nicholas chairs Caricom High Commissioners Subcommittee Meeting on Trade and Investment. Present were Her Excellency Francine Baron, High Commissioner for Dominica, Her Excellency Ruth Elizabeth Rouse, High Commissioner for Grenada, His Excellency Dr. Carl B.W. Roberts, CMG, High Commissioner for Antigua & Barbuda and His Excellency Hugh Anthony Arthur, High Commissioner for Barbados.*

Trinidad and Tobago's High Commissioner to UK, H.E. Garvin Nicholas, in his capacity as chairman of the Caricom arm of the Joint UK-Caricom Committee on Trade and Investment, convened a meeting with High Commissioners from Antigua and Barbuda, Barbados, Grenada and Dominica to discuss actions required to further develop trade and investment between Caricom and the UK/Europe.

Discussions centred around finding ways to overcome challenges faced by Caricom countries in exporting to UK/EU countries; potential avenues for investment across the region; use of financial instruments, such as diaspora bonds and customised trading/investment platforms, and the mutual benefits to be derived from meaningfully engagement with the Caricom diaspora toward development of trade and investment between the UK/EU and Caricom.

TOBAGO WINS AGAIN!

Tobago Estate Chocolate was awarded "Best Dark Chocolate Bean-to-Bar 2013" by UK based Academy of Chocolate.

The Academy of Chocolate is the most prestigious authority within the quality chocolates industry and only accredits chocolates of the highest grade.

Tobago Estate Chocolate is a Single Estate chocolate from Tobago Cocoa Estate W.I. Ltd, Republic of Trinidad & Tobago. The estate is located in the Roxborough District on Tobago's east coast, and was established in 2005 by Tobagonian Duane Dove. Only the finest grade Trinitario cocoa is grown at the estate which also offers drop in tours and special Culinary Tobago tours to visitors.

To read the full press release from the Academy of Chocolate please visit:
www.academyofchocolate.org.uk/awards/2013-2

For more information on Tobago Estate Chocolate, please visit:
www.tobagococoa.com

or email:
duane@tobagococoa.com

or call:
+868 788 3971/
+46 70 811 59 27

TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO HIGH COMMISSION EXPANDS ITS TRADE AND BUSINESS DIVISION

May 2012 saw the Trinidad and Tobago High Commission London embark on a new era of trade facilitation, with the expansion of its Trade and Business Division. This follows a mandate from the Government of Trinidad and Tobago to strengthen the Mission's efforts to implement national policies in pursuit of foreign investment, technology transfer, joint ventures, export promotion, sourcing supplies for the Trinidad and Tobago market and for developing and promoting the country's economic image.

***(L-R)**: Mrs. Rachel Gibbons, Mrs. Karen Thomas, Trade and Business Facilitator and Ms. Claudia Cupid.*

Mrs Karen Thomas, newly appointed Trade and Business Facilitator, brings her extensive experience in industry and scholarly pursuit at Warwick Business School to the position. Under the supervision of His Excellency Garvin Nicholas, Mrs Thomas has the remit of liaising with Trinidad and Tobago government agencies engaged in trade and investment facilitation, individual firms, industries and trade bodies in Trinidad and Tobago; business enterprises, Trade Organisations and trade and investment facilitation agencies in the United Kingdom, Germany, Sweden, Denmark, Norway and Finland.

The newly expanded Division has already embarked on an ambitious programme of relationship building and trade facilitation activities. The Trade and Business Division held a rolling Exposition at the TT Village site in Kilburn over the Mission's 5 week takeover of the Tricyle Theatre. Launched with a Business Forum on July 26th, brand T&T received tremendous reinforcement among the Diaspora and visitors via the presence of industry stalwarts like Sacha Cosmetics, Caribbean Airlines, KC Confectionery and Matouks, as well as newcomers like Aji Premium Pepper sauce and Incognito Limited, promoters of the popular Shipwrecked parties.

Mandated by the UK-CARICOM High Commissioners to facilitate a meeting to seek the consensus of people of Caribbean origin and descent on making a contribution towards the region, the Division hosted a Caribbean Diaspora meeting on August 21st at TT Village. This initiative gave birth to the Professional Working Group which has taken the mantle of forging the way forward to bring the initiatives discussed at the meeting to fruition.

The Division has facilitated meetings on behalf of the Ministry of Energy and Energy industries, the Trinidad and Tobago Coalition of Service Industries, and various visiting Trade Missions. Enterprises wishing to do business in the UK and accredited countries have been offered assistance as well as companies wishing to do business in Trinidad and Tobago.

It is the Division's intent to fulfil the High Commission's mandate by building and sustaining relationships with appropriate bodies; providing a point of reference for both local and foreign enterprises and individuals seeking to conduct business; and working closely with Trinidad and Tobago government agencies as well as relevant officials and stakeholders in accredited countries to successfully promote brand Trinidad and Tobago.

T&T INTERNATIONAL FASHION SHOWCASE 2013
WAVES: RE-THINK

Pictured (L-R): *Natasha Gomes; Darcel de Vlugt; Mark Eastman; Curtis Manchoon, U.T.T. Chairman; Lisa See Tai; Roanna Gopaul, Acting High Commissioner; Sharleen Chin, F. A. T.T.*

Waves: Re-think, a part of the British Council and the British Fashion Council International Fashion Showcase 2013 was launched at the Trinidad and Tobago High Commission on February 18th, 2013. This fashion installation, which features the work of emerging T&T designers Darcel de Vlugt, Mark Eastman and Lisa See Tai, encouraged the world of fashion to re-think their view of the Caribbean aesthetic.

It was clear from the work on display was that there was no one aesthetic and that each designer was an individual. From Darcel's flirtation with the opulent, Mark's sharp tailoring and Lisa's very bold prints, the future of the Caribbean looks to be a very stylish one.

Waves: Re-think was hosted at the Trinidad and Tobago High Commission from 18th-21th February, 2013.

Above: *Model showcasing one of Lisa See Tai's dresses with bold prints.*
Left: *A dress design by Darcel de Vlugt*
Bottom: *A cross section of the invited guests at the Waves: Re-Think reception.*

FASHION'S NEW WAVE: THE DESIGNERS

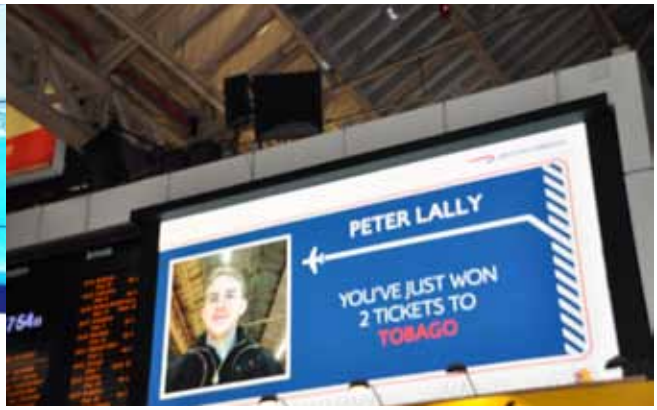
Mark Eastman is a 2012 graduate of the UTT Caribbean Academy of Fashion Design (CAFD). He is currently working with Robert Young of The Cloth as a technical design assistant. His work was most recently featured in a full-page spread in the magazine 6 Carlos Street.

Darcel de Vlugt is the winner of the 2009 Next Generation Designer Award from the Islands of the World Fashion Week in Nassau, Bahamas. De Vlugt, a graduate of the London College of Fashion, currently works as an editor for the magazine CF Style. Her third collection was released in May 2012 and also showcased at Islands of the World Fashion Week.

Lisa See Tai is a 2012 graduate of the UTT CAFD. Last year, she received the CAFD Designer Critique Award. See Tai was also the co-designer of the Anya Ayoung Chee's 2011 spring/summer collection and works as a CAFD instructor. Her latest collection was showcased in the 2012 Style Spirit Weekend.

Photos: Sophie Myers, David Roberts'

TOBAGO TICKETS WON EVERY FIFTEEN MINUTES



Above: *Persons in Victoria train station, London registering their information to take part om the "Land A Plane" game to win free pairs of air tickets. Mr. Peter Lally was one of the llucky winners on the day.*

The Tourism Development Company (TDC) together with British Airways held a TOBAGO TICKET GIVEAWAY at Victoria Train Station, London on February 2nd, 2013. Users taking part in the giveaway played a light arcade style "Land A Plane" game in order to win free pairs of air tickets every 15 minutes.

Users were required to register at a Tobago branded check-in desk by submitting their details into a browser-based form. Each user was then given a unique gaming number by a staff member that allowed them to play the "Land A Plane" game at one of six gaming stations.

The game required the user to control a British Airways 777 plane using a joystick, from the first person cockpit view, navigating it through a flight path and eventually landing it at Crown Point Airport in Tobago.

Points were awarded during the game-play for accuracy of the flight and for the timing of the landing. It was possible to fail to complete the game altogether by straying from the flight path too many times. Users that successfully landed the plane had their points score submitted to a leader board. Users who played but failed to land appeared on the leader board with zero points. The leader board aggregated the scores of all users submitted from across the six gaming stations.

Every 15 minutes the player at the top of the leader board got an email to inform them that they won a pair of tickets to Tobago. The leader board was then wiped clean and gaming continued as above for another 15 minutes. All user data captured on the day was made available to British Airways & Tourist Boards.

Pictured: *Participants trying their luck at "landing in Tobago"*

TRINIDAD & TOBAGO AT ITB BERLIN 2013

Pictured: *Darren Ganga, Brian Lara, H.E. Garvin Nicholas, High Commissioner; Mrs. Juliana Johan-Boodram, Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Tourism, Hon. Stephen Cadiz, Minister of Tourism, Assemblyman Tracy Davidson-Celestine, Secretary of Tourism and Transportation, THA.*

Trinidad and Tobago showed a significant presence at the ITB Berlin 2013. Minister of Tourism, the Honourable Stephen Cadiz; His Excellency High Commissioner Garvin Nicholas; Secretary of Tourism and Transportation, Assemblyman Tracy Davidson-Celestine; Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Tourism, Juliana Boodram; Administrator, Division of Tourism and Transportation, Claire Davidson-Williams and sports personalities Darren Ganga and Brian Lara in their respective capacities as T&T Ambassador and TDC board member were all present attending high level meetings and press conferences promoting brand Trinidad and Tobago.

A very successful rum and chocolate tasting conducted by Duane Dove of Tobago Cocoa Estates followed one of the press conferences at the highly visible Trinidad and Tobago stand.

The High Commissioner and Minister Cadiz took part in several meetings throughout the event with the various stakeholders including Travel zoo, Weltmeyster, eCircle, CI Caribicinseln GmbH and Fritz Tourism.

The stress on economic diversification strategy continues with these determined efforts to advance Trinidad and Tobago's tourism sector.

ITB BERLIN IS WORLD'S LEADING TRAVEL TRADE SHOW

From moderate beginnings with five participating countries in the context of an overseas-import trade show in 1966, The International Tourism Bourse (ITB) Berlin is now a worldwide success. Exhibition space grew from 580 square meters to 150,000 square meters today. ITB Berlin is a driving force in the travel industry and gives important impulses to a continuously growing market. ITB Berlin has exhibitor sales of about 6 billion Euro, more than 170,000 visitors, among these 113,000 trade visitors, and 11,000 represented companies from 180 countries and an exhibitor satisfaction rate of 92 percent. ITB Berlin is the leading B2B-Platform of all tourism industry offers.

Source: *http://www.itb-berlin.de/en/AboutITBBerlin/ITBAtAGlance/History*

ATIONAL CALYPSO MONARCH 2013

1. Eric "Pink Panther" Taylor - *Travel Woes/ Crying In The Chapel*
2. Kurt Allen - P*olitical Sin Phony/Black Stalin Say*
3. Heather MacIntosh - *The Old Man's Lament/Invisible*
4. Roderick "Mr Chucky" Gordon - *Bear With Me/ The New Addiction*

PLAY WHE INTERNATIONAL POWER SOCA MONARCH 2013

1. Austin "Superblue" Lyons - *Fantasic Friday*
1. Machel Montano - *Float*
3. Rodney "Benjai" Le Blanc - *Engoma*
4. Destra - *Carry On*

DIGICEL INTERNATIONAL GROOVY SOCA MONARCH 2013

1. Machel Montano - *The Fog*
2. Neil "Iwer" Goerge - *Bubble*
3. Dexter "Blaxx" Stewart - *Nah Get Away*
4. Ravi B - *Prescription*

Top right: Lady Africa winner of Kaisorama Extempo finals 2013 - ***Photo - Trinbago Unified Calypsonians Organisation (TUCO).*** ***Top left:*** *Eric "Pink Panther" Taylor.* ***Photo - National Carnival Commission of Trinidad and Tobago (NCC).*** ***Middle:*** *Superblue performing Fantastic Friday at Soca Monarch Finals.* ***Photo - Guardian.tt.*** ***Bottom left:*** *Machel Montano in costume perfroming 'Float' at Soca Monarch Finals 2013.* ***Photo - billboard.com.*** ***Below:*** *North West Laventille Cultural Movement performed a flaming limbo at the Kaisorama Extempo finals 2013.* ***Photo - TUCO.*** ***Bottom right:*** *Raymond Ramnarine* ***Photo - Newsday.co.tt.***

LOTTO PLUS INTERNATIONAL CHUTNEY SOCA MONARCH 2013

1. Raymond Ramnarine - *I Ain't Marridin' No More*
2. Rikki Jai - *Ent You Know*
3. Kris "KI" Persad - *Friends for the night*
4. Kenneth Supersad - *Bad Talking Woman*

BAND OF THE YEAR (SENIORS) 2013

1. The Finale Mac Farlane Carnival 2013 - *Joy*
2. Ronnie & Caro The Mas Band - *The Mystery Of The Cascadura*
3. Fleets In Trinidad All Stars (Steelband) - *Fleets In*

BAND OF THE YEAR (JUNIOR) 2013

1. The Conquest - *Colorz Fuh So*
2. Wee International - *Magnifioue..... Earth'S Most Colourful Creature.*
3. Maurice Chevalier - *Sobeit 2013*

Top: *A section of The Finale Mac Farlane Carnival 2013 - Joy.* ***Photo - Mac Farlane Carnival.***
Middle: *Frontline costumes from Ronnie & Caro The Mas Band - The Mystery Of The Cascadura.* ***Photo - Ronnie & Caro The Mas Band.***
Bottom right: *Curepe Scherzando Steelband playing in the semi finals of the National Panorama competition.* ***Photo - NCC.***
Bottom left: *a front line costume from a carnival mas band in Tobago.* ***Photo - THA.gov.tt***

PANORAMA 2013

LARGE BAND:

1. Petrotrin Phase II Pan Groove
2. Neal and Massy Trinidad All-Stars
3. BP Renegades
4. Republic Bank Exodus
5. Junior Sammy Group Skiffle

People's Choice Large Band Category - Neal and Massy Trinidad All Stars

MEDIUM BAND

1. NLCB Buccooneers
2. Courts Sound Specialists of Laventille
3. Petrotrin Katzenjammers
4. Curepe Scherzando
5. Pan Elders

People's Choice Award Medium Band Category - Courts Sound Specialists of Laventille.

TOBAGO

BAND OF THE YEAR (SENIORS) 2013

1. Skandalus - *The Rites of Spring*
2. Minstrels of Tobago - *Big Minstrels' Jubilee.*
3. Stoute Next Generation - *Flight in the Indies*

BAND OF THE YEAR (JUNIOR) 2013

1. Stoute Next Generation - *Secret -s of the Sea*
2. Mas Masters - *Reflection of Our Reef*
3. Scarborough RC School - *Crusin into Paradise*

1: *Queen of the Band (Seniors) 2013 - "Rakuen No Yorokobi" (The Joy of Paradise) - MacFarlane Carnival.* ***Photo - NCC.*** ***2:*** *Kiddies Carnival costume.* ***Photo - NCC.*** ***3:*** *A reveller from Bliss carnival mas band on the stage in Queen's Park Savannah, Port of Spain.* ***Photo - Darrin DesVignes.*** ***4:*** *A couple of masqueraders in costumes crossing the stage, in Queen's Park Savannah, Port of Spain.* ***Photo - ncbatt.com.*** ***5:*** *(R-L) Nina Landry, Nikita Bernard, Danielle Reyna, Jennifer Christine and friends in costumes from different sections of Tribe mas band.* ***Photo - Damiano Salsero.*** ***6:*** *H.E. Garvin Nicholas & H.E. Dr. Neil Parsan in Bliss mas band.* ***Photo - Darrin DesVignes.*** ***7:*** *A scene from the Cambleulay Riots re-enactment.* ***Photo - NCC.*** ***8:*** *Kiddies Carnival costume.* ***Photo - NCC.*** ***9:*** *Traditional Mas red indian costume in Carnival Monday night mas in St. James* ***Photo - NCC.*** ***10:*** *Masqueraders Nikita Bernard, Kerron Lezama, Damiano Salsero, Nicholas Tsoi-a-sue, Derek Richards, Adé Farquhar enjoying themselves in Tribe mas band.* ***Photo - Danielle Reyna.***

CURWEN PRIMARY SCHOOL INTERNATIONAL WEEK PROJECT

Curwen Primary School in Plaistow, London approached the High Commission for the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago to participate in their International Week Project which was held from March 4th to 8th, 2013.

Pictured: *Mrs. Renuka Köninger presenting 'Steely' to a Curwen Primary School student*

The school's International Week Project was devised to celebrate the multicultural diversity within the institution. 90% of pupils of Curwen Primary School are from ethnic minority groups ranging from countries in Eastern Europe, South East Asia, East and West Africa, Caribbean and South America.

The school invited the Trinidad and Tobago High Commission to send a representative to conduct a workshop with the Year 3 children. A "mini Trinidad and Tobago" had been created by class teacher Ms. Kathleen Brand, herself a T&T national, and other classes recieved 'a stamp' in their passoport when visited. Ms. Renuka Köninger, Cultural Officer at the Trinidad and Tobago High Commission, shared facts about Trinbagonian culture, food, music and aspects of life with the children after which they were quizzed on what they had learnt. Souvenir prizes such as flags, badges and maps from Trinidad and Tobago were presented to those who answered correctly.

Curwen Primary school's International Week Project was highly successful and the support offered by the Trinidad and Tobago High Commission was greatly appreciated.

Pictured: *A cross section of some of the students of Curwen Primary School*

HAVE YOU HEARD?
YOU CAN SEND UP TO
£100
TO TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO
FOR £4.90
TRANSFER FEE*

TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

Amount to Send (£)	NEW Fees* (£) In Minutes*	NEW Fees* (£) Next day*
0.00 — 100.00	6.90	4.90
100.01 — 500.00	9.90	8.90
500.01 — 700.00	13.90	11.90
700.01 — 1,000.00	16.90	14.90

FAST RELIABLE CONVENIENT

More price reductions available at your agent location!
Visit us for more information or call 0800 833 833

WESTERN UNION WU

moving money for better

* Western Union also makes money on currency exchange. Terms and conditions apply £4.90 transfer fee is for sending up to £100 with our Next Day service. Funds may be delayed or services unavailable based on certain transaction conditions, including amount sent, destination country, currency availability, regulatory issues, identification requirements, Agent location hours, differences in time zones, or selection of delayed options. Additional Restrictions may apply. See Send form for details.
Authorised by the Central Bank of Ireland and regulated by the Financial Services Authority for the conduct of payment services business in the UK.

TOBAGO CARNIVAL REGATTA

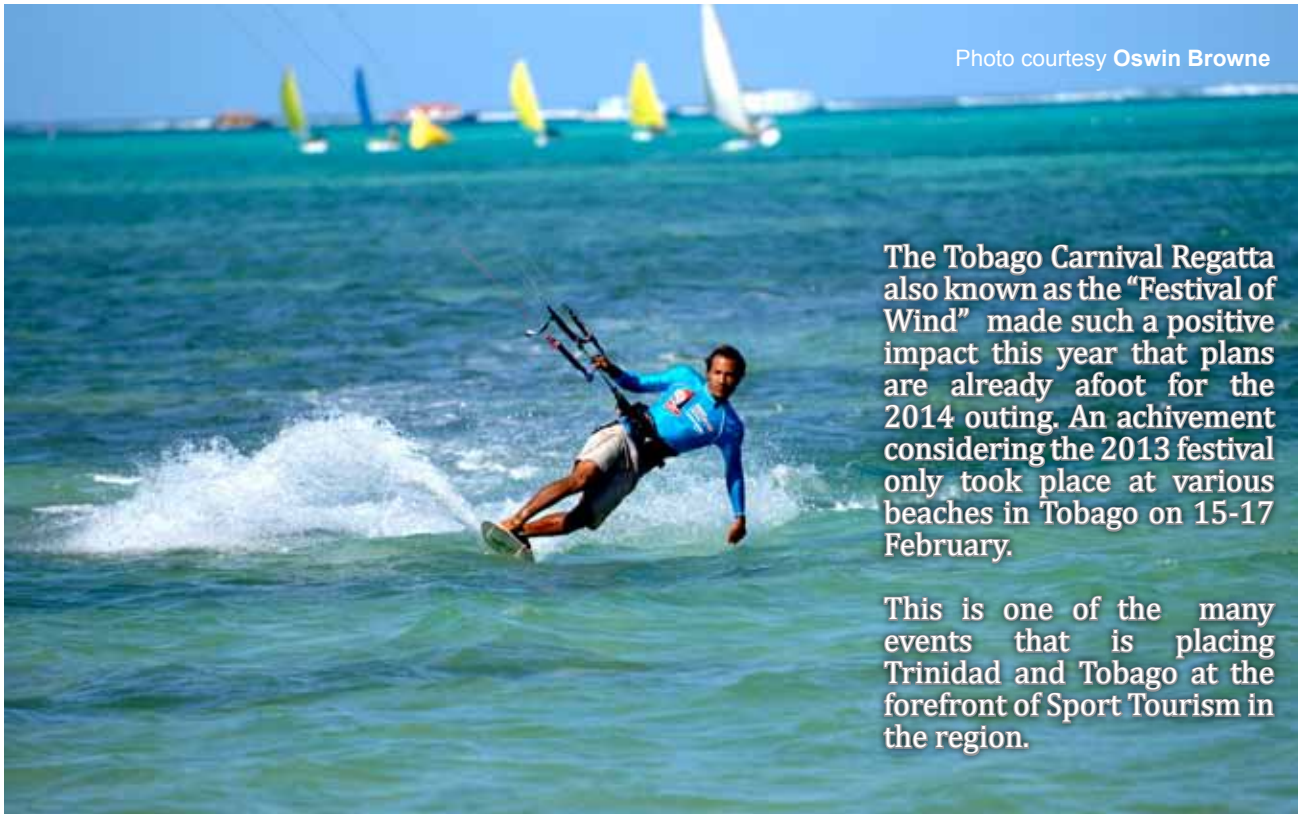


Photo courtesy **Oswin Browne**

The Tobago Carnival Regatta also known as the "Festival of Wind" made such a positive impact this year that plans are already afoot for the 2014 outing. An achivement considering the 2013 festival only took place at various beaches in Tobago on 15-17 February.

This is one of the many events that is placing Trinidad and Tobago at the forefront of Sport Tourism in the region.

DESTINATIONS: THE HOLIDAY & TRAVEL SHOW IN LONDON

On 31st Jan - 3rd February, Trinidad and Tobago was one of the tourist destinations on display at Destinations: The Holiday & Travel Show. Destinations is dedicated to finding travel enthusiasts their ultimate holiday. With hundreds of ideas and expert advice, visitors felt inspired in no time!

Pictured: *The Rum Ambassador Ian Burrell mixes some Angostura Specials for the crowd in the Trinidad and Tobago Stand at Destinations.*

'CAL BROCHURE LAUNCH AND RUM TASTING'

Caribbean Airlines, having launched UK flights on June 15th of 2012 with leased aircraft from OMNI Air, celebrated the introduction of its fully branded Boeing 767 – 300 to the route on January 17th, 2013 with a product evening for UK travel trade partners on 28th February, 2013.

The evening, branded a Caribbean Airlines 'Rum Tasting and Brochure Launch', showcased the unique rums of the region, namely Angostura of Trinidad and Tobago, home to the airline and El Dorado of Guyana, a primary destination served via strategic connections from London. Both well known rums can be found in the Caribbean Airlines Business Class lounge in Gatwick's North Terminal, the NO1 Traveller. Hosted at the Trinidad and Tobago High Commission, the event was supported by the Trinidad and Tobago Tourist Board adding their considerable weight to that of the island's national carrier.

In an effort to familiarize the travel trade community with its product, the airline showcased its newly designed Product Brochure aimed at visibly illustrating the strength of the airlines product, its Economy Class seating with 32 inch seat pitch and flat-bed Business Class product with 74 inch seat pitch. Caribbean Airlines also sought to highlight its marriage of Caribbean and European cuisine in its diverse on-board menu aimed at celebrating the rich Caribbean cuisine offered by the region as well as catering to both the adventurous and conservative palate of its customers. Importantly, the brochure includes guidance notes on Caribbean Airlines' policy with regard to all aspects of passenger service and highlights its customer friendly and generous baggage allowance of two pieces at twenty-three kilos.

Pictured (from right): *Ms. Juanita Collins, Sales and Marketing Manager with guests at the Launch.*

Both the evening and the brochure sought to reinforce the well-known and laudable Caribbean warmth which permeates the airlines service and ethos, with Sales and Marketing Manager, Juanita Collins stating during her presentation 'On Caribbean Airlines, smiles are the preserve of every customer. They are not limited to particular cabins and are indeed the hallmark of our service.' Juanita further sought to reinforce the airlines' belief in symbiotic relationships while soliciting the support of those in attendance in ensuring the continued success of the route.

Caribbean Airlines flies thrice weekly non-stop to Trinidad with strategic onward connections to sister – island Tobago and Georgetown, Guyana from Gatwick's North Terminal. The airline has recently announced an on -time performance (OTP) of 87% against an industry standard of 85% and continues to grow with the recent addition to its fleet of two Boeing 767 – 300 ER aircraft and three ATR 72 - 600 aircraft.

For more information or copies of the Caribbean Airlines brochure, please call 0870 774 7336 or email cto.uk@caribbean-airlines.com.

HIS EXCELLENCY GARVIN NICHOLAS SPEAKS ON BUILDING A HEALTHY NATION AT HEALTH CONFERENCE

On Wednesday 14th March, 2013, The Commonwealth Countries League (CCL), in partnership with the British Heart Foundation and Diabetes UK held a one day conference on Health, Wellbeing and Nutrition at the Trinidad and Tobago High Commission on 14th March 2013 by the kind invitation of His Excellency Garvin Nicholas.

The event was sponsored by the British Heart Foundation.

Pictured: *His Excellency Garvin Nicholas addressing the Commonwealth Countries League Health Conference.*

The one day Health Conference aimed to provide awareness and information on Cardiovascular Disease and Depression, Food and nutrition, Physical activities relating to health and Misconceptions of Shisha.

His Excellency Garvin Nicholas gave the opening address which set the tone for the day emphasising the value of good nutrition and its importance towards our physical wellbeing:

'Health is influenced by a number of complex interactions between environmental factors, socioeconomic factors, health behaviours, health services and genetic factors. These factors are known as the determinants of our health. They do not work in isolation but rather combine together to affect individual health and by extension the health of the population'

His Excellency spoke of the Trinidad and Tobago Health Sciences Initiative which is an umbrella programme being implemented by the Government of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago.

He advised that the Government of Trinidad and Tobago's CDAP (Chronic Disease Assistance Programme) provides citizens with free prescription drugs and other pharmaceutical items to combat major health conditions which include Diabetes; Asthma; Cardiac Diseases; Arthritis; Glaucoma; Mental Depression and High Blood Pressure.

His Excellency said that the Government of Trinidad and Tobago recognises that education must involve the total health and well-being of the child. He referenced the fact that the School Nutrition Programme provides eligible students throughout Trinidad and Tobago breakfast and lunch through the National Schools Dietary Services Limited (NSDSL), which falls under the authority of the Ministry of Education.

Other speakers at the conference included professionals in the various sectors of the health sciences, allowing for participation from audience members from various Commonwealth countries.

The Health Conference was attended by over one hundred and thirty participants including His Excellency Dr. Chris Nonis, High Commissioner for Sri Lanka, Her Excellency, Ms. Ruth Elizabeth Rouse, High Commissioner for Grenada and Mrs. Zarina Wajid

> "Government of Trinidad and Tobago recognises that education must involve the total health and well-being of the child."

Hasan, spouse of the High Commissioner for Pakistan.

The day was a resounding success with many of the participants asking that the event take place at the High Commission next year. His Excellency has already expressed his support emphasising that, as in previous years, the Mission is always ready to support worthwhile projects which impact positively on our nationals.

Top left: *Ms. Majorie Rennie, Executive Chair of CCL*

Bottom left: *Mr. Ali Orhan, Project Manager Heart Health Resources & Community Support British Heart Foundation with Juilet O'Brien, Diverse Communities Officer Diabetes UK*

below: *Food Sculpture prepared by Christophers' Caribbean Caterers*

LITERARY TOURISM VISITORS ENCOURAGED TO EXPLORE CARIBBEAN LITERATURE IN TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

the Bocas Lit Fest

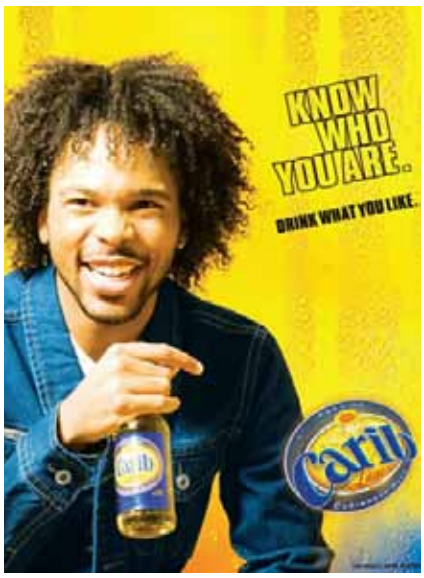
THE TRINIDAD & TOBAGO LITERARY FESTIVAL

Visitors are being encouraged to come to Trinidad and Tobago and rub shoulders with their favourite writers, and hear their conversations and readings by attending master classes at the NGC Bocas Lit Fest Festival of Words.

The festival will be held from April 25th to 28th, 2013 and is being advertised as the Caribbean's biggest and best literary get together. It is free to all participants.

"Trinidad and Tobago has a literary tradition that goes back many decades," noted a representative from the Tourism Development Company, "These twin islands have produced some of the finest writers in the Caribbean region and in the English language including the famous Nobel Laureate V.S. Naipaul, Samuel Selvon, Earl Lovelace, Sonny Ladoo, Eric Roach and talented newer writers such as Dionne Brand, Lawrence Scott, Vahni Capildeo, Jennifer Rahim and Monique Roffey."

The Lit Fest is this country's annual literary festival. It draws upon that heritage with a long weekend of readings, workshops, panel discussions, music, spoken word, film and storytelling events.



HIS EXCELLENCY GARVIN NICHOLAS VISITS THE ROYAL MINT

Pictured: *Mr. Paul Morgan, Regional Director of Sales, Americas and the Caribbean, Ms. Wendy Austin, Accounts Attaché, Trinidad and Tobago High Comission, London, Adam Lawrence ,CEO, The Royal Mint, H.E. Garvin Nicholas, High Commissioner, Mr. Narinesingh Lal, Immigration Attaché, Emily Phillips, Account Manager, The Royal Mint.*

The Royal Mint recently extended an open invitation to High Commissioner Garvin Nicholas to visit their premises in Llantrisant, Wales, during which he was offered the opportunity to witness first-hand the long tradition, craftsmanship, artistry and heritage of the Royal Mint.

The Royal Mint is the world's leading export mint. It is a fully government-owned organisation reporting to HM Treasury and responsible for UK coinage. Though the Royal Mint's first responsibility is to make and distribute United Kingdom coins, it has also supplied coins and coin blanks to at least 100 countries globally.

Trinidad and Tobago is an extremely important and long-standing customer for the Royal Mint and it has recently been awarded the contract to supply circulation coins to the Central Bank of Trinidad & Tobago.

On March 18th, 2013 the High Commissioner and two accompanying officers were given a VIP tour of the factory which included seeing Trinidad & Tobago circulation coins coming off the press.

Following the factory tour, Royal Mint historians at the Royal Mint Museum recounted the opulent historical heritage and showcased the long-standing historical links with our twin island Republic through their extensive collection of important Trinidad & Tobago historical coins.

Top right*: High Commissioner Garvin Nicholas starts the production of a recent order of coins received from Trinidad and Tobago.*
Bottom right: *High Commissioner Garvin Nicholas, Immigration Attache Mr. Narinesingh Lal and Ms. Wendy Ann Austin holding some of the new coins.*
Bottom left:*Officials from the Royal Mint explain the process of coin production to High Commissioner Nicholas.*

CPG SEEKS TO ADVANCE THE MUTUAL INTERESTS OF SCOTLAND AND THE CARIBBEAN

On Wednesday 27th March His Excellency Garvin Nicholas, High Commissioner for Trinidad and Tobago visited the Scottish Parliament to attend a special meeting of the Cross Party Group (CPG) on The Caribbean.

The CPG seeks to advance the mutual interests of Scotland and the Caribbean in areas such as trade, investment and tourism. The group also seeks to explore the historical relationship between Scotland and the Caribbean and to expand upon cultural links between the two.

The meeting saw discussion of topics such as travel between Scotland and the Caribbean and the Celtic Festival Barbados, an annual event with music, food and culture which celebrates the Celtic links with Barbados. The meeting also provided the opportunity for the High Commissioner to give an overview of Trinidad and Tobago and its relationship with Scotland.

His Excellency also attended a reception at the parliament hosted by the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association (CPA) Scotland Branch to celebrate the bicentenary of the birth of Dr. David Livingstone.

Commenting on the meeting Margaret Mitchell MSP, Convenor of the CPG on The Caribbean said:

'It gave me great pleasure to welcome the High Commissioner to the Scottish Parliament and to learn more about Trinidad and Tobago and its links with Scotland.

'There are many historical and cultural links between Scotland and the Caribbean and this meeting helped to cement that long-standing relationship and to build on these connections for the future.

'In addition, there are many opportunities for trade links between the Caribbean and Scotland for example the export of whisky, but also there is great potential for increasing tourism between these two regions and to that end I was very encouraged by the meeting and the progress made.'

Also in attendance at the reception for David Livingston were members of the CPA Scotland Executive branch, MSPs, representatives from organisations involved in delivering the many David Livingstone events during the bi-centenary year, Members of the Consular Corps in Scotland representing Commonwealth Countries and representatives from organisations with an interest in the life of David Livingstone.

Pictured: *H.E.Garvin Nicholas, High Commissioner with members of the CPA Scotland Executive branch.*
Photo - phototechimaging.photoshelter.com

APRIL 2013

Foreign Exchange rates

CURRENCY	BUYING	SELLING	CASH
Great British Pound	9.5729	10.1013	8.9879
United States Dollar	6.2539	6.4415	6.0000
European Euro	8.2059	8.6314	7.6109
Canadian Dollar	6.2057	6.5320	5.9007

THE NATIONALS MEETING - JANUARY - **"THE TRINIDAD & TOBAGO HIGH COMMISSION WORKING FOR YOU"**

Pictured: *H.E. Garvin Nicholas speaking at the January's Nationals Meeting seated at table is Minister Tim Gopeesingh.*

High Commissioner Garvin Nicholas invited Dr. the Honourable Tim Gopeesingh, Minister of Education of Trinidad and Tobago, to speak at the High Commission's monthly nationals' meeting 30th January 2013. Minister Gopeesingh was in London to attend a Conference for Government Ministers of Education.

High Commissioner Nicholas spoke on the ways in which the T&T education system surpassed others, including through the provision of free universal primary, secondary and undergraduate education, and continue the lap top programme, the assessment of mental state which has lead to the overall increase in performance of TT students.

Pictured: *Immigration Attaché Mr. Narinesingh Lal speaking with nationals*

"It's no secret that UK parents are burdened by the high cost of primary and pre-school education for their children. Our government has taken great steps to ensure that this is not the case for parents living in Trinidad and Tobago. Their children have access to free, quality education."

In his address to nationals, Dr. Gopeesingh explained that the Education Ministry is working with a goal of providing universal education for all by 2015. He also spoke about the need to provide better education for the 30% of nationals born every year with special needs. Minister Gopeesingh noted that despite our academic successes there is room to improve the literacy and numeracy skills of nationals and advised that the Secondary Entrance Assessment (SEA) Examination was under review.

Dr. Gopeesingh's presentation was warmly received by all those present, including Baroness Floella Benjamin, a prominent daughter of our soil. Nationals were invited to ask questions and raise concerns, all of which were promptly addressed by Minister Gopeesingh. The Minister thanked the High Commissioner for the opportunity to speak to UK based nationals of Trinidad and Tobago.

The format for the rest of the meeting included presentations made by two Diplomats, the Deputy High Commissioner and Head of Chancery Ms. Roanna Gopaul and Immigration Attaché Mr. Narinesingh Lal who spoke about their roles at the High Commission. Due to time constraints, this part of the programme was resumed at the February Nationals' meeting.

Pictured: *Ms. Nickesha Smith, Second Secretary, speaking at the February Nationals meeting*

THE NATIONALS MEETING - FEBRUARY - **"THE TRINIDAD & TOBAGO HIGH COMMISSION WORKING FOR YOU PART 2"**

The Trinidad and Tobago High Commission, London, hosted its second monthly nationals' meeting for 2013 on 27th February 2013.

A significant number of nationals resident in London and other surrounding areas were in attendance.

The meeting focused on the work of the High Commission and took the format of presentations given by the Diplomatic Officers and Senior

Pictured: Trade Facilitator Ms. Karen Thomas at January's Nationals Meeting

Staff at the High Commission. Each officer gave an overview of their roles, some including examples of situations where their expertise is required to help nationals residing in the UK and Europe.

The meeting included presentations by Mrs. Reshma Bissoon-Deokie, First Secretary, Ms. Nickesha Smith, Second Secretary, Ms. Wendy Ann Austin, Financial Attaché, Ms. Karen Thomas, Trade and Business Facilitator and Ms. Renuka Köninger, Cultural Officer, who also chaired the session.

Presentations by Head of Chancery, Ms. Roanna Gopaul and Immigration Attaché, Mr. Narinesingh Lal had been conducted at the January meeting.

The subject of the forum was well received and nationals were evidently interested to be informed of the activities and job functions of the various officers. All were appreciative of a clearer understanding of the work of the High Commission and its staff.

Further information on the activities of the Trinidad and Tobago High Commission can be found by visiting the website www.tthighcommission.co.uk

THE NATIONALS MEETING - MARCH **"TASPO STORY LAUNCH"**

On 25th March, 2013, High Commissioner Garvin Nicholas hosted an event to celebrate the legacy of one of Trinidad and Tobago's finest panmen, Mr Sterling Betancourt at the High Commission, London.

Mr. Sterling Betancourt, who received an award from Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth 11 for pioneering the Steel Band Movement in the United Kingdom and Europe, launched his CD "Taspo Story" at the event. The CD is a tribute to that memorable journey celebrating the 60th Anniversary of the Trinidad All Steel Percussion Orchestra (TASPO) attending the 1951 Festival of Britain. As His Excellency said 'A journey made so long ago and which left the UK so much richer musically.'

Pictured: (L-R) Mr. Brian Awang, His Excellency Garvin Nicholas, Mrs Beatrice Betancourt, Mr Sterling Betancourt and his son Mr. Benjamin Betancourt. In the background are members of the Solid Steel Musical Ensemble

Pictured: TASPO CDs and T-Shirts on sale

TASPO was the first steel band to perform in the United Kingdom on 26th July 1951, when the United Kingdom was initially introduced to Trinidad and Tobago's national instrument.

High Commissioner Nicholas advised that Mr Betancourt has been acknowledged as the main steel pan player and tuner responsible for keeping pan alive in the United Kingdom and that he is also one of three remaining members from the band TASPO still in the United Kingdom. He also reminded attendees that Mr. Betancourt was one of the High Commission's 50th

Anniversary of Independence awardees and that as High Commissioner he has acknowledged Mr. Betancourt's contribution to advancing Trinidad and Tobago's culture throughout the United Kingdom and Europe.

Mr. Betancourt gave an account of that first journey from Trinidad and Tobago by boat to Great Britain. The audience laughed when he said that the steelpans were so rusty that the authorities started throwing the steelpans off the boat. He also said that when they played at the Southbank on that memorable day the English people asked whether it was black magic as they could not understand how such beautiful songs can be played on rusty drums.

A number of well known leaders in the steel pan movement in the United Kingdom were present together with the Public Relations Officer of La Creole Pan Groove, Mr. Brian Awang. President of Pan Trinbago Mr. Keith Diaz also made an appearance earlier that evening while on en route to Sierra Leone.

Live Steelpan music for the evening was delivered by the Solid Steel Musical Ensemble.

***Pictured - upper right**: Mr. Russell Henderson - pan pioneer and 50th Anniversary of Independence Awardee. **Lower right** - Solid Steel Musical Assemble performing on the night. **Lower left** - Ms. Greta Mendez - 50th Anniversary Awardee and Cyril Khanai, Pan Pioneer.*

CARNIVAL FUTURES: NOTTING HILL CARNIVAL 2020

The King's Cultural Institute will be funding a new research project aimed at the Caribbean Diaspora, with a particular focus on Trinidad and Tobago, entitled "Carnival Futures: Notting Hill Carnival 2020". This project follows on from a symposium held last year which explored the contributions of the entrepreneurial pioneers responsible for establishing and developing the Notting Hill Carnival. This new initiative which seeks to move beyond this legacy will engage cultural organizations along with other stakeholders in proactively planning for the future of the Notting Hill Carnival. The project is being led by a Trinidadian researcher, Nicole Ferdinand, who is undertaking her PhD. studies at King's College London. Nicole will be working closely with Carnival Village and other organizations within the carnival community to engage stakeholders in the process of scenario planning. Ms. Ferdinand will be joined on this project by scenario planning experts within the European Tourism Futures Institute, who have pioneered this approach with tourism organizations throughout the Netherlands.

Ms. Ferdinand would especially like to hear from members of the Trinidadian Diaspora who have visited or continue to visit the Notting Hill Carnival with an interest in participating in this project. She can be reached via e-mail at Nicole.Ferdinand@kcl.ac.uk.

The research outcomes of the project will be shared at an event hosted at the Trinidad and Tobago High Commission in London, later this year.

***Pictured:** Mr. Dorian Hayes, Partnerships Manager for the Creative Futures programme at the King's Cultural Institute with Ms. Nicole Ferdinand.*

Pictured - Top left: *Students at the High Commission's Annual Students' Christmas Party in December partaking of some Traditional Trini Foods.* ***Top right:*** *H.E. Garvin Nicholas, High Commissioner welcoming students to the Students' Crhistmas Party.* ***Bottom right:*** *Nationals enjoying themselves and dancing to parang and other traditional Trinidad & Tobago christmas music at the Nationals' Christmas Party.* ***Bottom left:*** *A few of the female staff members of the High Commission showing others how to do PSY K-Pop Hit - 'Oppa Gangnam Style' dance at Staff Christmas Lunch Party.*

GraceKennedy – Showing the Spirit of Giving

Xtra Foods and Western Union Thank Customers

It was a day of fun, family and putting shoppers first at Naipaul's Xtra Foods in Grand Bazaar as the supermarket held their annual "Customer Appreciation Day." GraceKennedy's Western Union team was on hand for the second year in a row to thank customers. Held on October 27th 2012, the day's activities included balloon giveaways, bouncy castles, face painting and free sample items.

On the Road for Cancer Awareness

In late October 2012, 11 GraceKennedy staffers joined with Republic Bank and the Trinidad and Tobago Cancer Society to take part in the "Annual Cancer Remembrance Walk." The annual walk is a celebration of survival, empowerment and awareness, and GraceKennedy was proud to have been involved in 2012. Held on Saturday 27th October, the day's activities also included an aerobics session in which GraceKennedy employees participated.

Sharing Christmas in Pleasantville

It was much more than a "pleasant" occasion on December 9th 2012, as Western Union took part in Pleasantville Supermarket's first children's Christmas party. An estimated 500 children from the southern community, accompanied by their parents, enjoyed the festive event. Western Union was the main sponsor of the Christmas party.

Spreading Christmas Joy

Thanks to GraceKennedy some very special children enjoyed a special Christmas last year. The company gave gifts to residents of the Grace Community Complex (a home for children with disabilities) and the Adonna Home (for abandoned children). Every GraceKennedy employee chose at least one child for whom they purchased a present.

The end of the year is traditionally seen as the season of giving, and in the final months of 2012, GraceKennedy (Trinidad and Tobago) Ltd. represented that charitable spirit through several activities in communities throughout the nation. The provider of Bill Express bill payment services, FX Trader money exchange services and Western Union remittance services throughout Trinidad and Tobago and the wider Caribbean, closed off the year by supporting children, the community and of course, its valued customers.

20th ANNIVERSARY

WESTERN UNION moving money for better | GraceKennedy MONEY SERVICES | FX Trader | Bill Express

Publication of the High Commission for the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago, London
42 Belgrave Square, London SW1X 8NT / **Telephone:** 020 7245 9351 / **Fax:** 020 7823 1065 / **Website:** www.tthighcommission.co.uk